

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE

October 14, 2003  
Maricopa Association of Governments Office  
Cholla Room  
Phoenix, Arizona

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bob Lee, Cave Creek  
Ken Sowers, Avondale  
\*Phil Marcotte, Buckeye  
\*Mike Tibbett, Carefree  
A - Alex Banachowski, Chandler  
\*Jeff Sterling, El Mirage  
\*Unappointed, Fountain Hills  
\*Unappointed, Gila Bend  
A - Robert Carlston for Jo Rene DeVeau,  
Gila River Indian Community  
A – Ben Cox for Ray Patten, Gilbert  
Bill Griffith for Deborah Mazoyer  
Glendale  
Steve Burger, Goodyear  
\*Chuck Ransom, Litchfield Park

A - Brian Globle for Orion Goff, Mesa  
\*Armando Rivas, Paradise Valley  
David Nakagawara, Peoria  
Rick Doell, Phoenix  
\*Tim Wegner, Queen Creek  
David Potter, Scottsdale  
Forrest Fielder, Surprise  
\*Roger Vermillion temporarily  
unappointed, Tempe  
Mario Rochin, Tolleson  
\*Skip Blunt, Wickenburg  
Bob Cooperider, Youngtown  
Tom Ewers, Maricopa County  
Rus Brock, Home Builders Association

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.  
A-Those members participating via audioconference  
V-Those members participating via videoconference

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bob Palmer Southwest Gas  
Brian O'Donnell, Southwest Gas

Michelle Green, MAG  
Constance Kish, MAG

1. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Introductions

Members of the Committee introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 13, 2003

Comments were made regarding proposed changes to the August 13, 2003. Bob noted that item #7 should read that the money goes to the contractor not the jurisdiction.

Rus noted that he made a comment on page 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, second sentence.

Ben Cox then noted that there were changes that should be made on page 2 in the call to the Public section.

Michelle then noted that she received an e-mail from Bob Palmer of Southwest Gas with suggested corrections which were not available at the moment. Bob then suggested that the minutes be amended as noted and voted on next meeting.

4. Call to the Public

Mr. Lee noted that Senator Jon Corzine (D-NJ) introduced S. 1566, the Fire Safety Incentive Act of 2003, a companion bill to H.R. 1824, that will provide a tax incentive for building owners who install automatic fire sprinkler systems.

Mr. Lee also noted that there was an article in the October 8<sup>th</sup> issue of the Christian Science Monitor referring to research done by Harry Wolfe, former staff liaison for this committee, regarding building airports for an aging population. The article is available upon request from Michelle Green.

5. Post Tensioned Slabs

Mr. Brian Juedes, P.E., S.E., Principal Engineer with Felten Engineering Group and Clint L. Mueller, P.E., M.B.A. with the BBP Companies presented information on Post-Tension Slab

Mr. Juedes indicated that Post-Tension (PT) Slabs were the subject of a roundtable to discussion of issues. Mr. Juedes explained that a Committee, called the Phoenix Post-Tension Slab Roundtable, met on a monthly basis to develop a document to provide information on the issues explored. Mr. Juedes indicated that all people involved in the construction process contributed to resolving the issues from framers, to engineers, to plumbers, etc. He then asked jurisdictions if they could implement the recommendations in their communities.

David noted that, although ICBO report requires backup bars at the anchors; his understanding is that the requirement for backup bars was intended for suspended PT slabs. He then asked if since consolidation of concrete around anchors is critical to the integrity of a PT slab; will PT Roundtable advocate the omission of backup bars for non-suspended PT Slabs?

ICBO report does call for the backup bars so we are doing that to meet the letter of the law; however, they may do more harm than good in non-suspended PT applications. The load, he explained, is spread with thousands of pounds of psi right behind the anchor. He added that slab on grade is quite different than an elevated slab.

Mr. Juedes then discussed recommendations for a Special Inspector indicating that the PTI Certification program is a good one. He also pointed out that the inspector should be present at stressing and that after stressing the tendons should be cut and capped to prevent moisture penetration.

Mr. Juedes then noted that Peoria and Gilbert are now addressing verification of Pad by Geotechnical Engineer of Record. This completed Mr. Juedes presentation, a copy of which is available from Michelle Green upon request.

Steve Burger then made a motion for the committee to use the recommendations for Post-Tension Slab construction. Mario Rochin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with 12 votes yes and 3 abstentions. A copy of Mr. Juedes presentation is included with the minutes and agenda package for the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### 6. NFPA 5000

Ray Bizal, Regional Manager NFPA for the west coast gave a presentation on the adoption process for the National Electrical Code (NEC). Ray began his presentation by explaining that Building Officials have information that the NEC is interested in. Mr. Bizal explained that the adoption process is generic and can be used for any national code that is being adopted. He then explained that the consensus process approved by ANSI was used to develop the NEC. ANSI, he explained, oversees the code adoption process and provides a third party review. He stated that their ANSI's web address is [www.ANSI.org](http://www.ANSI.org)

Mr. Bizal stated that it is not necessary to be a member of NFPA to participate in the code development process. He indicated that the organization is taking steps to encourage more participation, such as offering to pay a portion of expenses to attend meetings and participate. Ray referred to the ANSI rule that no more than 1/3 of one group participating and a 2/3 vote is required to pass a motion.

Ray then discussed the Public Hearings every 1/4 at this time issues can be sent back to a committee for reconsideration.

Steve then asked why there are no enforcement people on the Standards Council.

Ray responded by saying that he thought that there are enforcement people on the committee and that anyone interested in serving should submit a proposal. Ray then indicated that he would assist anyone interested in preparing a proposal and he also directed people to the ANSI website for more information.

Steve asked what happened to 1710 and 20. He asked if it was appealed to ANSI and if so what happened with it.

Ray replied that they made a change that allows cities to meet an equivalency standard.

Forrest noted that the terms codes and standards are often used interchangeably.

Ray explained that a code is when and standards are how.

Forrest indicated that is the information he is looking for and that the processes for developing both are different.

Ray replied that he works with the Department of Commerce to get codes and standards in use internationally. A copy of Mr. Bizal's presentation is included with the minutes and agenda package for the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## 7. Dryer Fires

Jeff was not available to speak on the topic so Bill Griffiths gave a brief overview of the subject. Bill stated that back in January there was report back from NFPA in which a decision was made to attach labels to inform consumers of changes or exceptions that have been allowed for the installation of the dryer. Bill then made a motion that the committee adopt this as a MAG standard. Rick seconded the motion indicating that they have a similar method of notification and that they fully support it.

Frank of Southwest Gas (SWG) Government Affairs indicated that Southwest Gas goes inside to hook-up appliances without information, he indicated that it is often difficult to find information to hook it up. The Southwest gas policy, he indicated, is that if they see the plates and cannot find the proper information they will not hook it up.

He then referred to information on the internet which indicates that many of the dryer fires are due to maintenance issues. He then asked if anyone knew how many were the result of electrical failure.

Rick indicated that the issue for SWG is one of code compliance not fire.

Bob then asked the rhetorical question will it solve the problem? No, he said but in part yes he indicated that it is better to do something rather than nothing.

Dave Potter responded by stating that he thinks this will go a long way toward solving the problem. He indicated that he has seen homeowners bring in long runs and elbows etc.

Bob then indicated that if the plate is there then it makes the issue not personal.

Steve then added that people look at the code as a minimum standard and asked is this and ordinance?

Bill responded that this is a policy.

Steve indicated that this may not go far enough and that he would like to see if there is something more that the committee can do.

Rus said that he had discussed this issue with his colleagues and said that it is difficult to meet the code for the two-storey product. He said that the tried other options like working with GE etc. and trade secrets became an issue.

Bob stated that several jurisdictions already have this in place and reminded the committee of the mission of the group to promote uniformity in the interpretation and enforcement of building codes throughout the valley.

David then asked how this played out in the national circle.

Forrest then asked where the figure 14' came from.

Bob responded by stating that it was from the national code.

Ben Cox then added that the ANSI standard is 21.5.1 as referenced in the Building Standards Magazine of Jan/Feb 91.

The question was then asked if we should adopt this knowing that the tag does not meet the spirit and intent of the code or ANSI standard.

Bob added that the tag would tell subsequent homeowners if their appliance meets the code.

Ben then asked if the Phoenix building inspector measures the duct.

Rick responded by stating that the homebuilder installs the tag.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to adopt a MAG standard to attach a tag. The vote passed with 6 members voting yes, 3 voting no and 5 abstaining.

8. Update on the State Plumbing Commission

Steve Burger reported that there would be a meeting of the commission in November.

9. Update on the Activities of the Plans Examiner Building Inspectors Forum

This item was tabled to allow the Forum time to meet and report. The update is likely to be in December as the Forum is not meeting again until November 18<sup>th</sup>.

10. Update Survey of Code Adoption

Mario mentioned that the 2003 I-codes were going before his council that night. Bill mentioned that Glendale adopted the 1997 UBC and amended the I-Codes.

11. Updated MAG Building Codes Committee Membership

No change at this time.

12. Topics for Future Agendas

Bob mentioned that he would try to get someone from the Registrar of Contractors to give a presentation on Asbestos.

13. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on November 19, 2003 at 2 pm in the Cholla Room. Mario Rochin made the motion to adjourn, Steve seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.